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Agenda item 19
Admission of new Members to the United Nations

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Application of the Swiss Confederation for admission to membership in the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 135 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate herewith the application of the Swiss Confederation for admission to membership in the United Nations, contained in a letter dated 20 June 2002 from the President of the Swiss Confederation and the Chancellor of the Confederation on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex).

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Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 2[illegible] June 2002 from the President and the Chancellor of the Swiss Confederation on behalf of the Swiss Federal Council addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to submit the request of the Swiss Confederation for admission to the United Nations. By a vote on 3 March 2002, the people and the cantons of Switzerland authorized the Federal Council to make this request. We should be grateful if you would submit it to the Security Council and to the General Assembly.

Pursuant to the Federal Constitution, the duty of the Swiss Confederation is to protect the liberty and the rights of the people, to ensure the independence and security of the country and to promote a just and peaceful international order. The Federal Parliament and the Federal Council are responsible for taking the necessary measures to safeguard the neutrality of the country. Switzerland is a neutral State whose status is enshrined in international law. The United Nations recognizes that the neutrality of a Member State does not affect the fulfilment of its obligations under the Charter and contributes to the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

As a Member of the United Nations, Switzerland will remain neutral.

On the basis of the above, we have the honour to declare on behalf of the Swiss Confederation that the Confederation accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and is prepared to carry them out.

(*Signed*) Kaspar **Villiger**
President of the Swiss Confederation

(*Signed*) Annemarie **Huber-Hotz**
Chancellor of the Swiss Confederation